

Message Text

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12/45

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CU-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 USIA-06 /053 W

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R 121215Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5351

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 5464

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y FOR PARA. 4

PASS TO AID/OLAB AND AAFLI

BEIRUT FOR LABATT MATTSON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, ILO,PLO,JO

SUBJECT: ILO GENERAL CONFERENCE: JORDANIAN REACTION

REF: STATE 184617

1. SUMMARY: IN MEETING WITH EMBASSY LRO AUGUST 3, DIRECTOR OF JORDANIAN LABOR DEPT HISHAM TAHIR STRONGLY DEPLORED ALLEGED STATEMENTS OF AMERICAN DELEGATION AT RECENT GENEVA ILO CONVENTION, AND CRITICIZED PLENARY WALK-OUT OF U.S. DEL WHEN PLO ADMITTED TO OBSERVER STATUS. TAHIR CLAIMED THAT SYG OF JFTU AHID QINTAR, DEL MEMBER, ALSO SHARES HIS ATTITUDES. TAHIR AMBIGUOUS ON RESULTING ATTITUDES TOWARD AAFLI AS OF AUGUST 12, QINTAR HAS NOT RETURNED LRO'S PHONE CALLS. PRESENT TIME THUS NOT PROPITIOUS FOR APPROACH-ING LABOR LUMINARIES ON SUBJECT AFL-CIO CONF. END SUMMARY.

2. LABOR REPORTING OFFICER MET AUGUST 3 WITH HISHAM TAHIR, HEAD OF JORDANIAN DEPT OF LABOR AND MEMBER
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JORDANIAN DEL TO 60TH REGULAR SESSION OF GENERAL

CONFERENCE OF ILO, AMD SAMIR QSOUS, TAHIR'S ASSIST-
ANT AND DELEGATION MEMBER. TAHIR, IN PAST QUITE
ACCESSABLE TO LRO AND FRIEND OF EMBASSY, HAD PROVEN
UNAVAILABLE SINCE RETURNING FROM GENEVA. IN MEETING
AUGUST 3, TAHIR CONFIRMED REMORS IN AMMAN LABOR CIRCLES
THAT HE QUITE UPSET BY TURN OF EVENTS AT CONF BY DEPLOR-
ING IN EMOTIONAL FASHION ACTIONS AND STATEMENTS OF "ALL
OFFICIAL AMERICAN SPOKESMEN" AT GENEVA. CLAIMING THAT
AMERICANS' PUBLIC AND PRIVATE REMARKS ON SUBJECT OF
ARABS WERE "WORSE THAN THOSE OF THE ISRAELIS," TAHIR
AND QSOUS QUOTED ALF/CIO REP SIDEMAN (PHONETIC) AS
PUBLICLY REFERRING TO ARABS AS "BARBARIANS". "PIERSON,
HEAD OF U.S. DEL, AND SMITH, HEAD OF EMPLOYERS" REPRE-
SENTATIVES, " WERE ALSO SINGLED OUT AS HAVING MADE
REMARKS OFFENSIVE TO ARABS. ARAB DELEGATIONS' "STUNNED"
REACTION, SAID TAHIR, ULTIMATELY MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR
JORDANIAN DEL TO BE SEEN TALKING WITH AMERICANS AT CONF.

3. TAHIR AND QSOUS FURTHER CRITICIZED U.S. TACTIC OF
WALKING OUT OF PLENARY UPON ADMISSION OF PLO TO OBSERVER
STATUS. TAHIR, MEMBER OF JORDANIAN GENERAL INTELLIGENCE
DIRECTORATE AND STRONGLY ANTI-PLO, FELT NEVERTHELESS
THAT U.S. DEL OVERREACTED IN MANNER WHICH MERELY EXPOSED
IT TO REDICULE OF CONFERENCE. HE PARTICULARLY RESENTED
U.S. "THREAT" TO CUT OFF FUNDING TO ILO SINCE, HE SAID,
ABU DHABI COULD PICK UP TAB WITHOUT BLINKING.

4. ASKED IF HE HAD ANY REFLECTIONS OF AAFLI ROLE AT
CONF, TAHIR REPLIED THAT EVENTS DESCRIBED ABOVE
"ELIMINATED ANY HOPE OF AAFLI MOVING INTO EGYPT." HE
CLAIMED THAT AFL/CIO DEL HAD QUARRELED PARTICULARLY
VIOLENTLY WITH EGYPTIAN DEL, ALTHOUGH HE CAREFULLY
DISASSOCIATED AAFLI REPS MUTH, #WHOLLEY AND PALLADINO
FROM ANY UNPLEASANT INCIDENTS. TAHIR SEEMED RELUCTANT
TO SPECULATE ON WHAT EFFECT THIS VERSION OF EVENTS,
"KNOWN BY ALL JORDANIAN WORKERS, SINCE THEIR REPRESENTA-
TIVES WERE THERE, "MIGHT HAVE ON AAFLI PROGRAMS IN
JORDAN. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT AHID QINTAR, SYG OF
JFTU AND MEMBER OF GENEVA DEL, HAD RESIGNED FROM

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COMMITTEE WHICH SUPERVISES AMMAN HEALTH CLINIC (FUNDED
IN PART BY AAFLI). QINTAR, SAID TAHIR, HAD BEEN
PRESSURED TO RESIGN BY "COMMUNIST" TRADE UNION MEMBERS
REACTING TO EVENTS AT GENEVA.

5. COMMENT:

A) TAHIR'S REPUTATION IN JORDANIAN LABOR CIRCLES AS
CLOSE FRIEND OF U.S. EMBASSY AS WELL AS GID OPERATIVE

PLACED HIM IN EXPOSED POSITION AT GENEVA, BOTH FROM POINT OF VIEW OF JORDANIAN WORKERS AND FELLOW ARABS. HIS EMBARRASSMENT IS APPARENTLY SHARED BY QSOUS AND QINTAR. #SINCE BOTH TAHIR AND QINTAR ARE KEY FIGURES IN LABOR MOVEMENT (TAHIR ON GOJ SIDE AND QINTAR AMONG UNION RANK AND FILE), AND BOTH APPEAR TO BE PROPAGATING ABOVE ACCOUNT, CURRENT EMBROGLIO CAN BE CONSIDERED MORE THAN MERELY FLASH IN PAN. TAHIR REMAINS FAVORABLY DISPOSED TO AMERICANS, HOWEVER, AND HIS REACTION IS MORE IN HURT THAN IN ANGER.

B) AS OF AUGUST 12, LRO UNABLE TO VERIFY TAHIR'S ASSESSMENT OF QINTAR'S ATTITUDES, SINCE LATTER NOT RESPONDING TO LRO'S PHONE MESSAGES. TAHIR SAYS THAT HE, TAHIR, IS TOO BUSY TO DISCUSS MATTER FURTHER UNTIL AT LEAST AUGUST 18. AT ANY RATE, PRESENT MOMENT DOES NOT APPEAR PROPITIOUS TO APPROACH LABOR LEADERS ON SUBJECT AFL-CIO CONF (REFTEL).
PICKERING

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